The Academy is officially represented on several national and international bodies. National bodies on which the Academy serves include the National Council for Tertiary Education, the Ghana National Commission on UNESCO, the Medical and Dental Council, the Science and Technology Research Endowment Fund (STREFund), and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

At the international level, the Academy is a member of the Third World Academy of Sciences, the International Academic Union, African Academy of Sciences, InterAcademy Panel, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), the International Council for Science (ICSU), and others. The Academy is also affiliated with the International Council for Philosophy and Humane Studies (ICPHS-UNESCO), the humanities equivalent of ICSU.

BRIEF HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences was established by an Act of Parliament on the initiative of Ghana’s first Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. Following the signing of the instrument of incorporation of the Ghana Academy of Learning on 21 November 1959, the Ghana Academy of Learning was inaugurated on 27 November 1959, 2 years after independence from colonial rule. Soon after the Academy’s 20 founding fellows were sworn in, 13 men and 1 woman. At the time of its establishment, the Ghana Academy of Learning was the first in postcolonial Africa.

At its founding, the goals, aims, and objectives of the Ghana Academy of Learning were to promote the study, extension, and dissemination of knowledge of the arts and sciences, to establish and maintain proper standards of endeavour in the fields of the arts and sciences in Ghana, and to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts and sciences.

On its second anniversary, with the Ghana Academy of Learning (Amendment) Instrument of 1961, the name of the Academy was changed from the Ghana Academy of Learning to the Ghana Academy of Sciences.

On 1 January 1963, through Executive Instrument E. I. 5, Ghana Academy of Sciences Instrument of 1963, the National Research Council of Ghana (NRC) was merged with the Ghana Academy of Sciences, and the Academy was given an overall responsibility for the organization, coordination, and direction of scientific research for national development. The Academy prioritized national research needs, enlarged the capabilities of the NRC, and took over the administration and management of the research institutes, units, and projects of the National Research Council.

Following the 1966 change of government, in 1968 the Ghana Academy of Sciences was split into two organizations: the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The original aims and objectives of the Academy of Learning were retained and redefined in its responsibility for the organization and coordination of scientific research for national development. The aims and objectives of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences remain as originally defined in 1959 for the Ghana Academy of Learning:

- to promote the study, extension, and dissemination of knowledge of the arts and sciences;
- to establish and maintain proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the arts and sciences;
- to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts and sciences in Ghana;
- to do such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objectives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Location:

YMPOSIA, AND ROUNDTABLES
The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to contribute to the development of Ghana and Africa in general, by examining and addressing crucial issues of development.

Values

The Academy’s determination to place the experience, knowledge, and expertise of its fellows in the forefront of national development.

Uniqueness

The Academy is distinguished from all similar entities in the country and region by its major activities, and the capacity to undertake targeted research.

PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT

The Academy determines its mission and objectives, and its determination to place the experience, knowledge, and expertise of its fellows in the forefront of national development.

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The Academy’s determination to place the experience, knowledge, and expertise of its fellows in the forefront of national development.

In all things, the Academy strives to exercise honesty, objectivity, and independence of thought to contribute to Ghanaian academic and intellectual wealth and is motivated solely by the determination to serve the best interest of society.

The Academy distinguishes itself from all similar entities in the country and region by its major activities, and the capacity to undertake targeted research.

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UNIQUE COMPETENCIES

The Academy’s determination to place the experience, knowledge, and expertise of its fellows in the forefront of national development.
The Academy operates a busy program and it has a number of important activities that it wishes to undertake. Its current priority work is dictated by the availability of funds.

**Current Priority Activities**

**Fellowship/Parliamentarians Paring Program**
- Based on the scientific and humanitarian purpose of the U.K.’s Royal Academy, the Ghana Academy initiated a similar activity with members of Parliament (MPs). Fellowships have been joined up with Ghanaian MPs to work on mutually agreed projects.
- The program is intended to raise public awareness and also give fellows an insight into the constraints faced by MPs in parliament and also their constituencies in terms of science-related issues.

**The Academy Solar Project for Rural Schools**
- The project is an initiative of the renewable energy sector. It offers clean energy to rural schools and brings the potential for renewable energy options to people living off the national grid.
- The Academy project seeks to provide solar power systems to schools in remote areas and ensure education for all children.
- The Academy would like assistance to cover the costs of the project.

**Science Education for the Blind**
- In collaboration with the Ghana Society for the Blind, the Academy is participating in the establishment of facilities to cater to the needs of visually impaired students to enable them to pursue studies in science and mathematics.
- A program has been initiated, but it requires funding support.

**Awards**
- The Academy bestow awards in recognition of outstanding contributions in fields of science and technology and developing a national culture of science and technology.
- The Academy would like assistance to rehabilitate and prepare the National Science Museum to serve as a focal point for attracting public attention and broadening awareness of science.
- The Academy would like to continue to attend the bi-annual newsletter.

**Publications**
- The Academy responds to its aims and objectives partly through the publications that it produces in its ongoing programs and activities.
- The publications are made available to the public to contribute to the extension and dissemination of knowledge of the arts and the sciences.
- The Academy Proceedings, which is the longest established, were originally part of the Academy’s Proceedings, but have been published separately since 1974. Other documents published or scheduled for publication include the President’s Annual Address, the Annual Sectional Lectures, Fellow’s Inaugural Lectures, and papers delivered during the Founder’s Week celebrations and other important occasions in the calendar of the year.

**Priorities Programs Pending Funding**
- The annual programs that, with appropriate funding, the Academy would undertake include the provision of evidence-based advice to government, sponsorship of educational visits to centers of excellence, developing a headquarters for the Academy, and a science museum project.

**The Provision of Evidence-Based Advice to Government**
- The Academy requires the support of funds for the engagement of the services of scientific through fellowships contracts to carry out specific kinds of research leading to evidence-based advice to the government.

**Sponsorship of Educational Visits to Centers of Excellence**
- The Academy would like to organize sponsored visits by fellows to centers of excellence or centers of excellence to promote the extension and dissemination of knowledge of the arts and sciences.

**Science and Technology for Development**
- The Academy would like to collaborate on matters of mutual interest and national concern.
- Parliamentarians have been paired up with Ghanaian MPs to work on mutually agreed projects.
- Based on the scientist/parliamentarian pairing of the U.K.’s Royal Academy, Fellows/Parliamentarians Pairing Program.

**Science Education for the Blind**
- In collaboration with the Ghana Society for the Blind, the Academy is participating in the establishment of facilities to cater to the needs of visually impaired students to enable them to pursue studies in science and mathematics.

**Science Museum Project**
- In pursuance of its responsibility for raising awareness in the fields of science and technology, the Academy would like assistance to rehabilitate and prepare the Science Museum to serve as a focal point for attracting public attention and broadening awareness of science.

**Fellowship-Parliamentarians Paring Program**
- This annual event commemorates the founder with a series of lectures and papers delivered during the Founder’s Week celebrations and other important occasions in the calendar of the year.

**Parliamentarians’ Public Forum, Symposia, and Roundtable Conferences organized in partnership with the Ethical Fund Foundation in addition to its own publication, the Academy used to offer general assistance to individuals and organizations for the publication of books considered to be academically worthy of support.**

**Proceedings of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences**
- The Academy would like to continue to attend the bi-annual newsletter.
- The Academy Proceedings, which is the longest established, were originally part of the Academy’s Proceedings, but have been published separately since 1974. Other documents published or scheduled for publication include the President’s Annual Address, the Annual Sectional Lectures, Fellow’s Inaugural Lectures, and papers delivered during the Founder’s Week celebrations and other important occasions in the calendar of the year.

**Pryority Areas**
- The Academy has the capability to undertake targeted research.
- Its current priority work is dictated by the availability of funds.

**ongoing academy activities**

**Established Lectures**
- Annual sectional lectures, in the sciences and humanities, followed by a speech, the proceedings of which are published annually.

**Science Education for the Blind**
- In collaboration with the Ghana Society for the Blind, the Academy is participating in the establishment of facilities to cater to the needs of visually impaired students to enable them to pursue studies in science and mathematics.

**Ministerial Visits Program**
- Through this program, ministers, followed by the president, hold discussions with ministers to consider ways in which research by fellows can assist government policy and activities.

**Fellow’s Work Celebration**
- The annual event commemorates the founder with a series of lectures and papers delivered during the Founder’s Week celebrations.

**ANNUAL SECTIONAL LECTURES (selection)**
- Science and Technology: The Development of Science and Technology (1976).
- Financing Education in Ghana into the 21st Century (1964).
- Land as a Resource for Development (1957).
- The Information Age (2000).

**GAA Special Publications**
- The Academy has the capability to prepare educational materials on a wide variety of subjects. With the minimum range of production, simple publications on subjects that otherwise were seen little known and unable to be made available to the public.

**Sponsorship of Educational Visits to Centers of Excellence**
- The Academy would like to collaborate on matters of mutual interest and national concern.
- Parliamentarians have been paired up with Ghanaian MPs to work on mutually agreed projects.
- Based on the scientist/parliamentarian pairing of the U.K.’s Royal Academy, Fellows/Parliamentarians Pairing Program.
The mandate of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is fulfilled through a program of activities, including the organization of lectures, symposia, public forums, workshops, and conferences throughout the year, as well as the publishing of papers for academic excellence and in recognition of outstanding contributions to knowledge in the arts and sciences. The Academy’s unique activities include the Sectional Lectures in the Sciences and Humanities, Fellows’ Inaugural Lectures, the Founder’s Week Celebrations, and the Annual Memorial Lectures such as the J. B. Danquah Memorial Lectures, a series of three presentations, and the Aniweru’s Public Forum, Symposia, and Roundtable Conferences organized in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In addition to its own publications, the Academy used to offer general assistance to individuals and organizations for the publication of books considered to be academically worthy of support. The Academy also publishes a bi-annual newsletter. The Academy’s major activities include the Sectional Lectures such as the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Lecture, the J. B. Danquah Memorial Lectures, and the Ephraim Amu Lectures such as the Ephraim Amu Memorial Lecture.

MISSION, OBJECTIVES, AND V

The Academy also has the ability required to maintain high-quality publications and the capacity to undertake targeted research on the credibility of the Academy and its fellows.

PUBLICATIONS

The Academy responds to its aims and objectives partly through the publication of its fellows’ scholarly contributions to knowledge in the arts and sciences. The Academy’s publications are made available to the public to contribute to the extension and dissemination of knowledge of the arts and sciences. The Academy’s Proceedings, draw on a set contains lectures and papers delivered during the Academy’s Sectional activities, and important occasions in the course of the year. The Academy also publishes a bi-annual newsletter. The Academy’s major activities include the Sectional Lectures such as the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Lecture, the J. B. Danquah Memorial Lectures, a series of three presentations, and the Aniweru’s Public Forum, Symposia, and Roundtable Conferences organized in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In addition to its own publications, the Academy used to offer general assistance to individuals and organizations for the publication of books considered to be academically worthy of support. The Academy also publishes a bi-annual newsletter.

PROCEDINGS OF THE GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (selection of themes)

Management, Administration, and Development (1973)

Social, Populations, and Policies (1973)

Energy and Development (1975)

Science and Technology in Development (1975)

Human Rights and the Democratic Process (1968)

The Future of Ghana (1969)

The Culture of Dependancy (1991)

Management of Ghana’s Natural Resources (1992)

Financing Education in Ghana into the 21st Century (1994)

Land for a Resource for Development (1997)

The Nature of the State in Contemporary Africa (1998)


The Information Age (2000)

Some Critical Development Issues Facing Ghana (2001)

Civilizations (2002)

ANNUAL SECTIONAL LECTURES (selection)

Sciences


The Landscape Industry as a Sustainable Environmental Management (2002)


The Justice Delivery System: S. Sefa-Dedeh (2007)


ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURES

Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Lecture


The Legacy of Kwame Nkrumah, Lilian A. Bobie (2005)

The Befitting (NEPAD) Challenges, John Atta (2006)


Music and Culture: The Culture, Letitia E. Obeng (2005)


Ephraim Amu Memorial Lecture


The Legacy of Ephraim Amu, Kofi Agawu (1999)

Ephraim Amu: A Portrait of Cultural Entrepreneur, Letitia E. Obeng (2001)

Music in Western and Ghanaian Context, K. A. Dickson (2002)


The Poetry of Dr. Ephraim Amu, A. A. Bragbing (2003)
to do such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objectives.

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

AcaDemic in the Built Environment, Engineering, and Medicine

The national academies are the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Medicine, and Institute of Medicine.

The academies are independent nonprofit organizations, established by Congress as part of the U.S. National Academies, to advise the federal government on issues that affect the health, welfare, and safety of people across the globe.

www.national-academies.org

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Vice Chancellor,
University of Cape Coast

Justice Prof. S. K. Date-Bah
Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

The lack of an independent, neutral, and impartial body for national debate in Ghana highlighted the need for an Academy to provide leadership in the areas of science, technology, and other knowledge-based fields.

To do such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objectives.